

Agenda Item No. 1
Higher Education Coordinating Board
April 19, 2019

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
January 25, 2019

Minutes of Meeting

The January 25, 2019, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Little Rock. Chair Charles Allen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Charles Allen, Chair
Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair
Al Brodell
Chris Gilliam
Lori Griffin
Greg Revels
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Sam Sicard, Secretary
Keven Anderson
Dr. Olin Cook
Sherrel Johnson

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Dr. Jessie Walker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs/Research & Analytics
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations
Sonia Hazelwood, Associate Director for Research and Analytics
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director of Communications
Jeanne Jones, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs
Alana Boles, Program Director for Private and Out-of-State Education
Micah Gilbert, Network Support Specialist
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

Presidents, chancellors, institutional representatives, members of the press, and guests were also present.

Agenda Item No. 1
Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Dr. Michael Stanton seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair Charles Allen, Dr. Michael Stanton and Dr. Olin Cook) recommended the following slate of Board officers for 2019-2020.

President – Dr. Jim Carr
Vice President – Al Brodell
Secretary/Treasurer – Chris Gilliam
Finance Committee Chair – Keven Anderson
Academic Committee Chair – Lori Griffin

Greg Revels moved to accept the 2019-2020 nominations. Lori Griffin seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
State Board of Higher Education Foundation
Election of Supervisory Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Foundation was established on May 2, 1992. The Board for the Foundation includes three annually elected members: a president, a vice president and a secretary/treasurer. The Foundation was established in order to accept private funds for specific projects for the benefit of higher education in Arkansas. The current officers are:

President – Chris Gilliam
Vice President – Lori Griffin
Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Olin Cook

The terms for these members have lapsed, requiring a re-election or new appointments.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and elects members to serve as the State Board of Higher Education Foundation Supervisory Committee as follows:

Chris Gilliam – President
Lori Griffin – Vice President
Dr. Olin Cook – Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Jim Carr moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Dr. Michael Stanton seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Reimbursement of Expenses for
Members of the AHECB and ICAC

Although members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) by law serve without compensation, they may receive expense reimbursement for performing official board duties after following certain procedures set out by Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by a majority vote of its total membership, authorizes expense reimbursement for each board member and member of the ICAC for performing official board duties.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the expense reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Department of Higher Education to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Finance and Administration to notify that agency of compliance with Act 1211 of 1995.

Greg Revels moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Chris Gilliam seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Director's Report

ADHE Staff Changes

Nick Fuller presented the Director's Report in Dr. Markham's absence. Fuller began by announcing new ADHE employee Rich Sanders. Sanders began on January 7 as IT Senior Project Manager.

Institutional Leadership Changes

The University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (UACCM) Chancellor Dr. Larry Davis will retire at the end of January, after almost nine years of service.

Diana Arn, Vice President for Academic Services at UACCM, has been named Interim Chancellor, effective January 31. Arn, a U.S. Army veteran, enters the role with 32 years of experience at UACCM.

Legislative Update

Ann Clemmer presented a legislative update and began by highlighting a few higher education bills. She noted an amendment to the board composition bill has been proposed. The amendment will change the requirements regarding prior service on a two- or four-year board. Clemmer noted that a complete legislative summary would be available on the ADHE website, following the session.

Greg Revels asked if ADHE staff drafted the highlighted bills. Clemmer said, yes.

Public Service Commission

Ted Thomas, Chairman of the Arkansas Public Service Commission, presented information on their upcoming Diversity Summit scheduled for February 25, 2019 at the

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock. Geared towards higher education professionals, utility executives, regional transmission operators, policy makers, state and local officials and national diversity experts, the summit will focus on opportunities and careers in energy.

Agenda Item No. 6
Annual Enrollment Report

Sonia Hazelwood presented summary and detailed information about annual student enrollment. She noted the total enrollment for the 2018 Fall term in all sectors of Arkansas higher education (public universities, public colleges, as well as independent colleges and universities and nursing schools) was 160,615 students; representing a 1-year decrease of 1.6 percent.

Of these 160,615 students, 19,078 were high school students (11.9 percent), 121,792 were undergraduate students (75.8 percent) and 19,745 were graduate/doctoral/first professional students (12.3 percent).

Dr. Michael Stanton asked what nursing school programs were included in the report. Hazelwood explained that Baptist Health College in Little Rock and Jefferson Regional School of Nursing in Pine Bluff are the only nursing schools that report to ADHE, outside of our public institutions nursing programs.

Agenda Item No. 7
Annual Report on Institutional Certification

Alana Boles presented an update on the number of Arkansas residents pursuing academic degrees offered by out-of-state and for-profit institutions certified to operate in Arkansas under Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301.

Boles reported that in 2017-18, 15 Arkansas campuses, 22 institutions with programs delivered only through distance technology, 11 institutions offering programs both on Arkansas campuses and through distance technology and 4 institutions offering programs only on an Arkansas campus were certified under ICAC rules.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 8
Program Viability Report

Dr. Walker presented a summary report on academic programs reviewed by the institutions for program viability purposes. Walker reported that since January 2018, 90 programs have been deemed non-viable.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 9
Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report

Nick Fuller presented the Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report. The purpose of this report is to describe the financial condition as well as the difficulties and challenges experienced by Arkansas's Public Institutions of Higher Education.

Dr. Jim Carr asked if all ranks and positions were included in the faculty salaries. In addition, did any particular position make a significant increase?

Nick Fuller said it should include an average of all faculty across the board. He was unsure if any particular position made a significant increase.

Agenda Item No. 10
Economic Feasibility of Loan Issue
for the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network

Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (AREON) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure a loan not to exceed \$619,416.98 with a term of seven (7) years at an annual interest rate not to exceed 2.74 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for educational & general (E&G) purposes. Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on May 14, 2018.

The E&G loan issue will not exceed \$619,416.98 with an annual debt service of approximately \$98,448 and a term of seven (7) years. Proceeds from the loan will be used to replace the optical equipment acquired during phase I of the AREON network build out which is almost 10 years old. This equipment has been discontinued by the manufacturer and is no longer supported. The debt service on the loan issue will be supported by E&G revenues derived from membership fee revenue. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service provides fee revenue should be no less than 120 percent of the estimated total annual debt service.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network to secure a loan not to exceed \$619,416.98 with a term of seven (7) years at an estimated interest rate not to exceed 2.74 percent to replace the optical equipment acquired during phase I of the AREON network build out.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Greg Revels moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No.10 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Charles Allen seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item. No. 11
Master of Education in Education
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

The proposed 30-credit hour Master of Education in Education (M.Ed.) with emphases in Curriculum and Instruction or English targets current classroom teachers in the workforce who desire professional advancement and recent undergraduates seeking advanced knowledge and further academic preparation prior to entering the workforce. The proposed program will include twelve credit hours of core courses and 18 credit hours of coursework relevant to the emphasis area. The School of Education will have procedural and policy oversight of the program(s) with English be housed in the College of Communication, Languages, Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). The Curriculum and Instruction emphasis will be offered through the School of Education in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The proposed M.Ed. program is based on the five-core propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards thereby providing candidates with an understanding of the expectations of a master teacher. The proposed program will focus on the development of research based knowledge in the areas of theory, teaching strategies, research, and a broad knowledge base of various curricula. The proposed M.Ed. program will be supported by current UAFS bachelor's degrees with teacher licensure in seven areas: Elementary Education (K-6), Middle Childhood Education (4-8), English (7-12), Biology (7-12), History (7-12), Mathematics (7-12), Spanish (K-12), and Music (K-12).

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Education in Education with emphases in Curriculum and Instruction and English (CIP 13.0101; 30 credit hours; 60% online) offered by the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, effective Fall 2019.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System and the Interim Chancellor of the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith of the approval.

Lori Griffin moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No.11 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Charles Allen seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2022.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institutions that the certification of the degree programs requires the institution to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) major reorganization of the controlling body; (2) changes in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution; or (3) changes in the method of operation of the institution's programs in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of said institutions that any advertisement or published materials using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Department of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria have been met as required under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in A.C.A. §6-61-301.

Ashford University, San Diego, California
Pepperdine University, Malibu, California
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Initial Program Certification – Arkansas Locations

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas
Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Lori Griffin moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No.12 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Charles Allen seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Items No. 13 & 14 Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from out-of-state institutions to offer degree programs to Arkansas residents. The program notice lists appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 13-1 through 13-20 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 14-1 through 14-7 of the agenda book.

Report of the Committees

Al Brodell presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Item 10. Chris Gilliam seconded and the board approved.

Dr. Jim Carr presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 11 – 12. Lori Griffin seconded and the board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Chair Allen announced that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education would host the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting at their offices on April 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., in the first floor boardroom.

Dr. Charles Allen thanked everyone for coming before handing over the gavel to newly appointed board chair, Dr. Jim Carr.

Dr. Carr thanked Dr. Allen for his service as Coordinating Board chair and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Sam Sicard, Secretary